

From: DavePenn60@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/1/02 9:35am
Subject: Microsoft settlement

I'm writing in support of the settlement negotiated by the DOJ and Microsoft.

I am both a user of Microsoft software and an owner of Microsoft shares.

I have worked in the information technology arena since entering the workforce in 1962. I have known what it is to develop systems for computers with only 4096 bytes of memory (that is not a typo). For computers for which punched cards were the only storage medium. For computers that were anything but personal.

In my career the focus of my development efforts changed from developing systems for mainframe computers to developing systems for personal computers in early 1988. At that time the operating systems "war" was being fought among IBM, Microsoft, and Apple. I can personally attest that there has been an "order of magnitude" improvement in the Windows operating system since that time. That improvement was primarily attributable to the "invisible hand" of competition among that group of competitors.

As a user of application software, I can personally attest to the value that Microsoft has brought to that field. The organization I was a partner of (Andersen) had adopted Lotus 1-2-3 as its standard spreadsheet software. The improvements that Microsoft made to Excel that even the most diehard supporter of 1-2-3 had to acknowledge that Excel was the better product and ultimately we changed to Excel as our standard spreadsheet.

I'm also aware of the improvements that Microsoft has made to programming languages and the other software that facilitates development in those languages.

In short, Microsoft has done a great deal to foster improvements in information technology and that has rippled throughout our entire economy.

If Microsoft has broken the law, it should be punished in accordance with that law. If current laws are not adequate for the world we now live in, new laws should be written and adopted in the cold light of day. We should not, however, develop new laws through the judicial process. And, we should not develop new laws through the judicial process at the urging of organizations who have not enjoyed the success they believe that they deserve in the competitive arena.

Yes, you need to consider the source and I acknowledged I was and am a Microsoft shareholder. I'm a shareholder because I recognized the value Microsoft was bringing value to the field of information technology. And, I continue to believe that Microsoft will continue to bring value to that field

as long as the competition with other information technology providers is fair. As I understand the terms of the settlement agreement, I believe that the proposed post-settlement environment will be fair to all concerned.

Thank you for considering the voice of one consumer and one owner of a part of the American economy.

David Brunn
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